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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/676,021	10/02/2003	Chun-Chen Chen	CHEN3580/EM	6447
23364	7590	12/01/2004	EXAMINER	
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC 625 SLATERS LANE FOURTH FLOOR ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			TSUKERMAN, LARISA Z	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 12/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/676,021

Applicant(s)

CHEN, CHUN-CHEN

Examiner

Larisa Z Tsukerman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09/17/2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 5-11 and 15-20 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 12-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 - 3, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Applicant's Prior Art (see Fig. 1).

In regard to claim 1, Applicant's Prior Art discloses a structure of a power line fixing module for an electronic apparatus comprising:

an electronic-apparatus housing 11,12,13 comprising a first side plate 12 having a first fixing hole 121;

a power line 17,171 having a connector 171 at one end thereof;

a fixing medium 14 cooperating with the connector 171 of the power line for fixing the connector of the power line in the first fixing hole 121 of the first side plate 12; and

at least a fixing element 18 for fixing the fixing medium 14 on the first side plate 12.

In regard to claim 2, Applicant's Prior Art discloses the electronic apparatus is one selected from a group consisting of a power adapter, a power supply, a charger, a household appliance and an information appliance (see page 2, lines 1-4 of specification).

In regard to claim 3, Applicant's Prior Art discloses the electronic-apparatus

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housing 11,12,13 further comprises:

a second side plate 13, and a metal extrusion housing 11 assembled with the first side plate 12 and the second side plate 13 to form a closed space for mounting a printed circuit board 16.

In regard to claim 12, Applicant's Prior Art discloses a structure of a power line fixing module for an electronic apparatus, wherein said electronic apparatus comprises a housing 11,12,13 and the housing comprises a first side plate 12 having a first fixing hole 121, the power line fixing module comprising:

- a power line having a connector 171 at one end thereof;

- a fixing medium 14 cooperating with the connector 171 of the power line for fixing the connector 171 of the power in the first fixing hole 121 of the first side plate 12; and

- at least a fixing element 18 for fixing the fixing medium on the first side.

In regard to claim 13, Applicant's Prior Art discloses a structure of a power line fixing module in a power adapter comprising:

- a first side plate 12 having a first fixing hole 121;

- a second side plate 13;

- a metal extrusion housing 11 assembled with the first side plate 12 and the second side plate 13 to form a closed space for mounting a printed circuit board 16;

- a power line having a connector 171 at one end thereof;

- a fixing medium 14 cooperating with the connector 171 of the power line for fixing the connector 171 of the power line in the first fixing hole 121 of the first side plate 12; and

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at least a fixing element 18 for fixing the fixing medium 14 on the first side plate 12.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Prior Art (Fig. 1) in view of Applicant's Prior Art (see Fig. 2). Applicant's Prior Art (Fig. 1) discloses most of the claimed invention except for the connector of the power line comprises a first flanged ring, a second flanged ring and a groove, wherein the groove is positioned between the first flanged ring and the second flanged ring. Applicant's Prior Art (Fig. 2) shows a connector comprising a well-known seal consisting of first flanged ring 195, a second flanged ring 194 and a groove 196, wherein the groove is positioned between the first flanged ring and the second flanged ring. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify a connector 171 in Applicant's Prior Art (Fig. 1) structure by including a seal of Applicant's Prior Art (Fig. 2) structure **in order to protect the electronic apparatus from environmental factors.**

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5 – 11 and 15-20 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 09/22/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to Applicant's arguments regarding claim 1, **on page 10** of the remarks that the power element input 14 is not utilized as a fixing medium for fixing the power line 17, unlike the claimed invention. Examiner disagrees, it is only matter of interpretation, the term "fixing medium" does not specify or require any particular structure. As used by Applicant, the term merely requires a structure for "cooperating with the connector of the power line for fixing the connector of the power line in the first fixing hole of the first side plate". Therefore, this limitation is met by the disclosed structure of the Applicant's admitted Prior Art; and

on page 11 of the remarks that the input element 14 configured for plugging the connector 171 of the power line therein, **but is not configured for securely fixing the connector 171 of the power line 17** therein/thereon. Examiner disagrees, because to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., **securely fixing the connector**) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Larisa Z Tsukerman whose telephone number is (571)-272-2015. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A Bradley can be reached on (571)-272-2800 ex. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LT, 11/23/2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tho D. Ta', with a stylized flourish at the end.

THO D. TA
PRIMARY EXAMINER